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NEW YORK TIMES 28 April, 1985

Letters

## Of Enver Hoxha And Major Ivanov

To the Editor:

Having been a British liaison officer in Albania in 1944, I read your April 12 articles on the death of Enver Hoxha with interest. I was surprised, though, by this: "He received assistance from Soviet officers who landed in Albania by parachute as well as from American and British liaison officers."

The Office of Strategic Services was certainly there — we met frequently — but in an intelligence, not operational role. The only Soviet officer I saw, however, was a Major Ivanov who certainly wasn't parachuted in. In fact, he didn't arrive until it was all over and the last Germans had pulled out. To my certain knowledge the Russians didn't give Hoxha a single bullet.

We took over King Zog's cook when we occupied the old British mission in Tirana in late 1944, and Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu were occasionally dinner guests. They would praise Moscow, and we would remind them where the weapons, uniforms and money came from. It didn't do any good, of course, but made us feel better.

ERICN. BISHOP

New Canaan, Conn., April 16, 1985